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Save the Date!

OCTOBER

Thursday, October 15th at 7pm

Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Georgetown
University and Columbia University
“Diplomatic Challenges and
Opportunities for U.S.-Cuba Relations”

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Chicago
“Water Diplomacy in the Middle East”
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Dr. Megan Styles, University of Illinois
Springfield
“Roses from Kenya: Labor, Environ-
ment, and the Global Trade in Cut
Flowers”

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WACCI Goes Virtual!

Although we cannot meet in person this fall, we can enjoy our programming through Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom before, follow these simple steps: first, go to the Zoom website, <https://zoom.us> to download the Zoom app onto your computer, notepad, or phone; simply click on “sign up—it's free.” Then, on the day of the program, log into Zoom about ten minutes before 7:00 p.m., click on “join a meeting,” and enter the Meeting ID 984 7811 6894 and the Password 563951. You may be in a “waiting room” for a few minutes and then will be able to join the meeting. The Zoom meeting can also be accessed by mobile phone at 312-626-6799 and entering the Meeting ID and Password.

If you have issues during the WACCI live presentation, you may call UIS ITS at 217-206-6000 for assistance. Zoom Log-In Information is also available on the WACCI website and Facebook page. All presentations will be recorded and available 2-3 days later.

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm via Zoom
Speaker: Dr. Gregory Gause, Texas A & M University

The Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and the New Middle East Cold War

Saudi Arabia and Iran are contesting for influence across the Middle East, in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and the Gulf. Their contest is often framed as a sectarian fight, Sunni v. Shia. But the roots of the conflict have more to do with domestic political crises across the Arab world and old-fashioned balance of power politics. This presentation will look at the causes of the new Middle East Cold War and how other parties, along with Saudi Arabia and Iran, play into it.

F. Gregory Gause, III is Professor of International Affairs at the Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University. His research focuses on the international politics of the Middle East, particularly the Arabian Peninsula and the Persian Gulf, and American foreign policy toward the region.

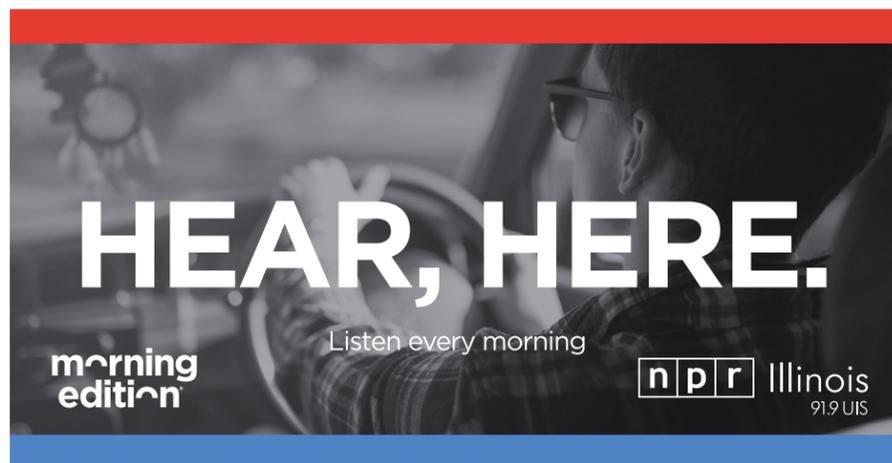
Previously Dr. Gause taught at the University of Vermont (1995-2014) and



Columbia University (1987-1995) and was Fellow for Arab and Islamic Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York (1993-1994). In 2009 he was a Fulbright Scholar at the American University in Kuwait and in 2010 was a research fellow in Saudi Arabia.

Gause has published three books, most recently *The International Relations of the Persian Gulf*. His articles have appeared in *Foreign Affairs* and other journals and edited volumes. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1987.

Please turn to page 2 for coming fall programs.



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A call for articles

For the foreseeable future, the newsletter will have more space because page two will not be posting dinner menus. Thus we welcome your ideas for articles—or better yet, an article itself on topics relevant to WACCI's interests and mission. Contact David Scott, dwscott17@att.net

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WACCI—A Look Back and a Look Forward

By Maurine Magliocco

I often say that when my husband and I moved to Springfield 15 years ago and discovered the World Affairs Council of Central Illinois (WACCI), it added much to the quality of our lives. We encountered experts from many fields speaking on a variety of international topics. We could speak informally with them before and during delicious dinners themed to the country under discussion and we could ask them questions during the Q and A following their presentations.

I specifically remember an animated discussion with Pam Constable, Afghanistan Bureau Chief of the Washington Post, and riveting presentations by a staffer of President Obama who was in the Oval Office during a call with President Putin of Russia. Egyptian-American journalist Mona Eltahawy appeared two months before being assaulted and having both arms broken as she covered the Arab Spring. Aaron David Miller shared many insights about his years as Mid-East Peace Negotiator under Presidents from both parties.

In 2016, I joined the Board and later became the Vice President for Membership and Financial Development. In 2017, under the outstanding leadership of David Anderson, WACCI has grown in new directions while maintaining the close "town-gown" connection it had from the beginning. A couple of years ago, NPR Illinois offered to "partner" with us, giving

us thousands of dollars' worth of free publicity, and more recently the Bank of Springfield became a Program Sponsor. We will be asking more businesses and organizations to do similarly. We continue to do presentations to local organizations.

When David Anderson established connections with chapters in Peoria and with the national World Affairs Council of America, he helped expand our network and gave us an even fuller understanding of the potential of our organization. With the current Zoom meetings, our local members can tap into nationwide programs, and experience speakers who would be unlikely to come to Springfield in person.

David recently resigned as President to move closer to family in Richmond Virginia, and I too will be leaving to do the same, only much closer in Quincy. As long as our programs are on Zoom, however, I will maintain my membership and look forward to "seeing" many of you via that format. We are now working more closely with International Affairs at UIS and with the Office of Advancement, which will also be working with Zoom, to address our shared goal of bringing greater understanding of people around the world to our community. We look forward to the future and hope you will be part of that and renew your membership. Please stay engaged!

President's Letter

By President Bruce Strom

Hello. I am Bruce Strom, the WACCI Board President for the current business year which began July 1, 2020.

I would like to begin by saying 'Thank You' to David Anderson who has been on the WACCI Board since July 2015 and has served as Board President for the past three years. His leadership has helped WACCI to continue its mission of bringing expert speakers to Springfield to share their knowledge of current international topics.

I have been on the WACCI Board since July 2016 and have served as Chairman of the Program Committee during the past year. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, things have been anything but normal during the first half of 2020. Programs that were scheduled for in-person presentation during the Spring of 2020 were cancelled and rescheduled for virtual presentation in the Fall of 2020. The dates, topics, and speakers for the four Fall

programs are identified in this newsletter. At this time, it is uncertain when the in-person speaker programs and pre-program dinners will resume; we hope that will be possible with the Spring 2021 programs.

We look forward to your support during this difficult time. The WACCI Board is a volunteer organization, and we depend on membership dues to support the expenses required to bring knowledgeable speakers to Springfield. Included in this newsletter is a membership form for the 2020 - 2021 business year. If you are currently a dues - paying member, please renew your membership. And please invite your friends to become members.



Time to Renew Your WACCI Membership

September marks the start of the WACCI programs offered for the 2020-2021 year, and membership renewals are due by October 1. Member financial support is the backbone of the budget expenses that make possible the eight programs offered from September to May and for the Great Decisions six-week seminar offered in the spring. At the start of the fiscal year, July 1, the operating balance is typically at its lowest level until membership dues are submitted. For new members who signed up this past spring or summer, your membership covers the 2020-2021 program year. For continuing members, please renew your membership by October 1. Thank you for your participation and support!

----- Please detach and mail -----

WACCI Membership Form

WACCI membership is open to individuals and household members. The recommended time for the payment of annual membership renewals is September, the beginning of the program year (September through May). New members joining in the spring (April through June) will have their membership extended to the June following the current one.

WACCI membership is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number (s): _____

Email Address: _____

WACCI members will be mailed the newsletter, *Communiqué*. If you also desire the email version of the newsletter, please check here:

____ Please email the WACCI *Communiqué* to me.

Please indicate your membership level:

____ Benefactors - \$500 ____ Sustainers - \$250 ____ Supporters - \$100

____ Friends - \$50 ____ Students - \$10

At all membership levels, your name will be listed periodically in the *Communiqué*.

____ I would like to become a board member in the future

____ I would like to serve on a committee

Please mail a check payable to: WACCI, Box 2233, Springfield, IL 62705

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